whom we have the privilege to have in our midst on this occasion. Hon'ble Members, I assure you that I shall try my utmost to fulfil satisfactorily and faithfully my duties as the President of the Council and particularly to safeguard the rights and privileges of this House as their custodian. I am very thankful for the great sentiments expressed by the Diwan and by the Hon'ble Members representing you and I am thankful also for the co-operation that has been promised to me in my work. Yes, it is this co-operation that I look forward to so that with your help, I may be able to discharge my duties without fear or favour (hear, hear) and faithful to the trust that is placed in me. Sir, and the Hon'ble Members, I thank you once more.

(The House rose for lunch at 1-40 p.m. and re-assembled at 2-50 p.m. with the Hon'ble President in the Chair)

5. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

JAGGERY SOLD IN FAIR PRICE SHOPS—SHORTAGE IN WEIGHT

291. മിസ്റ്റർ ജോസ് കെ. വർഗ്ഗീസ്: താഴെ പറയുന്ന ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്ക് ഗവർമ്മെണ്ട് ദയയും മറുപടി പറയുമോ.—

ന്യായവില ഷാപ്പുകളിൽനിന്നു കാർഡുപ്രകാരം കിട്ടുന്ന ശർക്കരയുടെയും പഞ്ചസാരയുടെയും തൂക്കത്തിൽ കുറവുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള പത്രറിപ്പോർട്ടുകൾ ഗവർമ്മെണ്ടിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ പി. ഗോവിന്ദമേനോൻ.

ഇന്ന പത്രമെന്നോ ഇന്ന തീയ്യതിയിലത്തെ റിപ്പോർട്ടെന്നോ കാണിക്കാതെ ഉത്തരം പറയുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല.

OVERLOADING OF PASSENGERS IN SERVICE BUSES

292. Mr. M. K. Raja (*Mulakunnathukavu*): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) what measures, if any, have the Traffic Department been taking during the last few weeks to prevent overloading of the public passenger buses;

(*b*) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that great inconvenience is being caused to the public by the inability of the present services to handle the passenger traffic on the various routes;

(*c*) what action has been taken to mitigate this inconvenience?

Rao Bahadur T. K. Nayar (*Minister for Public Health*):

(*a*) All the bus owners, drivers and conductors were given a final warning that very severe action will be taken against them if detected for overloads. Commissioner of Police himself paid surprise checks and detected a few cases. Prosecutions were ordered and the officers were instructed to press for deterrent sentences by Courts.

(*b*) Government are aware of the fact that there is some inconvenience on certain routes.

(*c*) All possible action has been taken.

Mr. M. K. Raja *(Mulakunnathukavu):* With regard to answer to sub-division (c), may I have an idea of the nature of all the "possible action" that has been taken by the Government.

Rao Bahadur T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Public Health):* In several routes additional buses have been put, some buses were allowed to have more number of trips. Additional buses were provided; additional trips also were allowed.

Mr. M. K. Raja *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I know whether the Government is satisfied that the congestion in the trafic has been removed by the action which has been referred to here?

Rao Bahadur T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Public Health):* In some places even now I understand there is some congestion and that question is being looked into.

Mr. M. K. Raja *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I know if the Government is of opinion that the inability of the present buses to handle all the trafic in the respective routes is partly but directly due to the stringency of the measures regarding overloading which the Government have undertaken recently?

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